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FRANCE.

CETTE.

By Consul Paul H. Cram.

During 1917 the foreign trade of the Cette district showed a considerable decrease both in imports for domestic consumption and for transit to Switzerland. Submarine activity, the utilization of an ever-increasing number of ocean carriers for the transportation of war material, and the adoption of measures restricting imports, in order to maintain exchange rates, were the chief causes contributing to the foregoing results. However, the general prosperity of the district, which is chiefly dependent on the returns from the wine crop, was particularly satisfactory in view of present conditions.

General Imports into Cette.

The principal foreign products imported into Cette during 1916 and 1917 are shown in the following table, the quantities being given in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds:

Articles.	1916	1917	Articles.	1916	1917
	Tons.	*Tons.*		*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Beverages, alcoholic:			Nitrates	36,272	22,354
Wines, ordinary	310,342	449,450	Petroleum:		
Other	16,344	14,423	Crude	1,043	.....
Breadstuffs:			Essence and refined	101,201	60,915
Barley	22,148	8,286	Residue	1,041	508
Corn	14,250	21,905	Phosphates	38,347	7,800
Oats	66,247	23,834	Pyrites	36,128	23,431
Wheat	54,822	50,776	Sulphur	74,295	29,208
Coal	98,800	18,093	Wood staves	1,815	1,411
Coal tar	30,891	3,028	Vegetables: Potatoes	8,355	4,440
Fruits:			All other articles	94,888	54,187
Grapes, pressed	6,181	9,879			
Lemons and oranges	32,866	24,111	Total	1,067,191	844,325
Metals:					
Iron	11,850	14,407			
Zinc and other metals	9,065	1,879			

The above statistics cover the general imports with the exception of merchandise imported through this port in transit to Switzerland.

Increase in Imports and Production of Wine.

Owing to its geographical situation, together with its facilities for handling and manipulating wines, Cette is probably the most important wine port in the world. Practically all the Spanish wines and a large portion of the Algerian wines received at this port are mixed with the light local wine, which is by far the chief crop in this district. Usually the volume of imports in a given year are in inverse ratio to the size of the local crop gathered in the preceding

autumn. However, this was not the case in 1917. As shown by the statistics in the preceding table the volume of this trade shows an increase of nearly 45 per cent. At the same time the French crop of the fall of 1916 exceeded that of the previous year by 344,913,291 gallons.

This anomaly is due to an increased consumption and to certain measures adopted by the French Government affecting the importation of wines from Spain. In 1917 considerably larger quanties of wine were purchased by the French Government for the army. The daily ration of soldiers was increased from a half liter (0.52834 quart) to three-quarters of a liter (0.79251 quart). The consumption of the Allied troops was also an important factor.

During the first half of the year the imports of Spanish wine were exceedingly large owing to the relative cheapness of such wine and to the fact that importers were aware of the intention of the French Government to prohibit imports thereof. On July 31, 1917, the importation of Spanish wines was prohibited. However, permission was granted to import these wines during a certain period in the case of contracts upon which full or partial payments had been previously made. The period during which wines could be imported was extended several times until November 30, 1917.

The Wine-Growing Industry.

The importance of the wine-growing industry in this region is shown by the following comparative statement of the production of the entire country and that of this district. In 1916 the total output was 951,476,310 gallons, and in 1917, 1,009,844,069 gallons; the output of the Cette district was 500,524,183 gallons in 1916 and 499,215,888 gallons in 1917.

In 1917 the value of the wine crop in this district was officially estimated at 1,739,931,008 francs ($335,806,685) or 1,221 francs ($236) per capita of the estimated population of the district prior to the war. The value of the entire French crop in 1917 was 3,741,369,122 francs ($722,084,241), compared with 2,010,472,752 francs ($388,021,241) in 1916. It will be noticed that although the production of this district was approximately one-half of the entire French production, the value thereof was relatively lower. This arises from the fact that the bulk of the production consists of wines of the ordinary type. The best-known varieties grown in this region are the Frontignan, Banyuls, Picpoul, St. George, and certain dry white wines employed in the manufacture of vermuth.

The average price of wine per gallon, which in 1914 was 0.697 francs (13.4 cents), had advanced to 2.113 francs (40.7 cents) in 1916 and was 3.704 francs (71.4 cents) in 1917.

Transit Trade—Imports from United States.

As shown by the following figures, the imports of merchandise in transit to Switzerland in 1917 showed a marked decrease compared with 1916: In 1916, 598,872 tons were transshipped, and in 1917, 350,288 tons.

As in preceding years, cereals originating in the United States constituted by far the chief element of this trade; and restrictions placed upon the exportation of cereals to neutral countries and the shortage of ocean carriers were the main causes of this diminution.

The transit trade with Switzerland is the fruit of war conditions, but efforts will be made to maintain this current of trade after the war.

The following comparative statement shows the chief products imported directly into Cette from the United States during the last two years, the quantities being given in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds:

Articles.	1916	1917	Articles.	1916	1917
Breadstuffs:	*Tons.*	*Tons.*		*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Barley	3,372	1,706	Sulphur	16,128	.....
Corn	.....	5,231	All other articles	12,825	15,203
Oats	45,519	19,497			
Wheat	51,576	50,776	Total	183,148	119,225
Oils:					
Cottonseed	204	.....			
Petroleum—					
Refined and essence	52,596	26,688			
Heavy residue	928	124			

As shown by the above table, the greater part of the merchandise consists of raw material. The shortage of ships was the chief cause of the general diminution of imports. It should be noted that since the beginning of the war only insignificant quantities of staves have been imported at this port. On the return of normal conditions the demand for cooperage stock for the manufacture of wine barrels and tank cars will be very large. The importance thereof may be inferred from the price of new wine barrels which has risen from about $10 in 1914 to considerably over $60 at the present time.

General Exports—Shipments to United States.

The general exports from this port amounted to 147,329 tons as compared with 96,940 tons in 1916. By far the greater part of this merchandise consisted of cereals which had been imported for local consumption, but were finally exported to Switzerland. Nearly 30,000 tons of coal was exported either in the form of bunkers or to Algeria.

The total declared value of exports from the Cette district to the United States during the calendar year of 1917 was $1,061,995, compared with $1,360,878 in 1916, the principal items being:

Articles.	1916		1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Chemicals, drugs, dyes, etc.:				
Argols, crude tartar.....pounds..	7,690,370	$1,250,032	4,245,993	$893,384
Cuttle-fish bones.....do....	7,493	1,219	8,830	2,255
Wine lees.....do....	.....	.....	348,739	17,622
Verdigris.....do....	15,413	3,611	20,711	5,728
Other.....	.....	11,258	.....	20,385
Fruits, candied.....pounds..	44,625	12,581	28,724	9,111
Lime, tartrate of.....do....	.....	.....	255,684	46,698
Paper, cigarette.....	.....	8,870	.....	6,432
Paper stock, crude.....pounds..	409,231	4,644	264,180	3,316
Spirits, wines, etc.:				
Vermuth.....dozen quarts..	18,891	63,775	16,982	57,061
Wines, still.....gallons..	4,088	4,193	.....	.....
All other articles.....	.....	695	.....	.....
Total.....	.....	1,360,878	.....	1,061,995

Shipments to the Philippine Islands consisted exclusively of cigarette paper valued at $34,973, compared with $7,641 in 1916.

There were no exports to Hawaii or Porto Rico during the last two years. Practically all these shipments were made through Bordeaux or Marseille.

Although the number of vessels frequenting the port of Cette was considerably larger than in the preceding year, the total net registered tonnage was much smaller, the number of vessels entering and clearing in 1916 being 3,711, with a net registered tonnage of 2,740,237; and in 1917, 4,996 vessels, with a tonnage of 2,233,108. The high freight rates and the demand for Spanish wines attracted to this traffic a large number of small Spanish fishing boats, some of which were not capable of carrying more than 30 casks of wine.

Port Movement—Harbor Improvements Postponed.

As a result of war conditions the net registered tonnage of ships under the Spanish flag frequenting this port has passed from 18 per cent in 1915 to 43 per cent in 1917. Four American vessels, with an aggregate net registered tonnage of 11,274, entered the port in 1917, as compared with 12 vessels, with a tonnage of 33,698, in 1916.

The clearances for American ports during 1917 were less numerous than in the preceding year. In 1917, 24 vessels, with an aggregate net registered tonnage of 53,580, cleared from this port for the United States, a decrease of 57 vessels and 131,111 tons under the preceding year. Most of these vessels were bound for New York. The number and net registered tonnage under the various flags were as follows: British, 7 vessels and 18,783 tons; Norwegian, 5 vessels and 12,917 tons; American, 3 vessels and 7,851 tons; Spanish, 4 vessels and 7,301 tons; all other nationalities, 5 vessels and 6,718 tons. As in 1916 practically all these vessels sailed in ballast.

In 1917, 80 vessels arrived from the United States with cargoes consisting chiefly of cereals and petroleum. The aggregate net registered tonnage of these vessels was 159,743, as compared with 142,916 in 1916.

The execution of the project adopted in 1916, which involves the deepening of the existing canals between the port proper and Lake Thau, together with the construction of a ship channel available for oceangoing vessels along the shore of the lake, have been postponed until the end of the war. Several other port projects will be certainly adopted on the return of normal conditions.

Local Industries—Chemical Factories.

Not only is wine the most important agricultural product and the chief item of the import trade, but it is also the basis of nearly all the larger industries. These allied industries consist of the manufacture of the various fertilizers and fungicides for the vineyards, the manufacture and rental of wine barrels and tank cars, the extraction of crude tartar from wine lees, and the manipulation of wines in view of the manufacture of appetizers.

The three large chemical factories of this city enjoyed another prosperous year in spite of the fact that an increasingly large quantity of chemical products were taken over by the French Government at lower than ruling prices. The output, which consists chiefly of fertilizers, fungicides, and chemical products for the ammunition factories, was practically the same as in the preceding year. The Compagnie des Produits Chimiques d'Alais et de la Camargue, which is situated at Alais, Department of the Gard, is the most important

establishment of this character in the district. This organization expects to increase its capital stock from 40,000,000 francs ($7,720,000) to 80,000,000 francs ($15,440,000). It is believed that a large portion of the funds thus obtained will be employed for the purchase of new equipment.

Sulphur Refineries—Manufacture of Appetizers.

The Raffineries Internationales du Soufre and the Raffineries de Frontignan produced about 13,409 tons of refined sulphur during the business year, which ended July 31, 1917, in comparison with 18,500 tons in the preceding year. The diminished production was due chiefly to an accident which resulted in the suspension of work at the Frontignan factory during several months. The value of crude and refined sulphur in 1917 represented an increase of 275 per cent and 250 per cent, respectively, over that of 1915. Owing to the difficulty of importing crude sulphur from the United States the French Government has made arrangements with the Italian Government, which controls the production in Sicily, for the delivery of considerable quantities.

This city is the most important center in France for the manufacture of appetizers, such as vermuth and quinquina, of which wine is the basic principle. Owing to Government restrictions relative to the sale of appetizers in which alcohol is the basic principle, the demand for vermuth and quinquina was considerably larger than in the preceding year. On the other hand the export trade to the United States was somewhat smaller than in 1916. The shortage of cases and bottles was the chief cause of this diminution. In fact, shipment ceased during a certain period while new contracts were being made in view of exporting to the United States in casks. Transportation difficulties and the shortage of labor also affected the trade to a certain degree. Inasmuch as the situation has improved, exporters can at present fill orders without great difficulty.

Crude-Tartar Industry—Production of Salt.

The production of crude tartar was considerably less than in 1916. The wine crops from which the tartar was extracted were much below the normal production in 1915 and 1916. Furthermore the industry was seriously affected by the shortage of labor. During the first six months of 1917 the total exportation of crude tartar was limited to a maximum of 500 tons per month. Exporters were obliged to hold at the disposition of the French Government during a period of two months a quantity of tartar equal to one-quarter of the amount exported. During the latter half of the year exportation was limited to 400 tons per month.

Prices of crude tartar which were 3 francs (57.9 cents) per degree, cost and freight New York, in January, 1917, rose to 4.6 francs (88.7 cents) per degree toward the end of the year. This important rise in prices was due to the following reasons: Short wine crops in 1915 and 1916, removal of embargo on the exportation of tartar in the latter part of 1916, and heavy purchases made by the French Government. Owing to the increasing needs of the Government, the exportation of crude tartar will probably be forbidden in 1918 until the end of the war. Inasmuch as the wine crop of 1917 was small, the production of tartar in 1918 will continue to be less than the normal output.

The production of salt in the Cette district, which amounted to 136,155 metric tons in 1916, was only 77,583 metric tons in 1917. This decrease is attributed to unfavorable weather conditions. In normal times large quantities are exported to Newfoundland and Canada for the preparation of fish. During the last two years the Government has purchased a large portion of the output for the manufacture of war material.

Shortage of Staves—Fisheries.

Owing to the continued shortage of staves, the output of wine barrels was insignificant. On the other hand firms engaged in the rental of barrels and tank cars enjoyed another successful year.

The total value of the fish landed at Cette in 1917 was officially estimated at 1,212,623 francs ($234,036). The following statement shows the catch at this port during 1916 and 1917:

Kind.	1916	1917	Kind.	1916	1917
Mackerel.....tons..	85	93	Shellfish—Continued.		
Sardines.....do....	93	122	Other shellfish...quarts..	249,376	157,234
Shellfish:			Tunny.....tons...	61	16
Lobsters.....do....	5	4	All other.....do....	238	274
Oysters.....number..	539,000	181,000			

The Mining Industry.

Coal, iron, and bauxite are practically the only minerals mined in this district. The ever-increasing demand for the manufacture of war material and the enemy occupation of the mines in the northern and eastern part of France have led to a considerable development of the mines in this region. In fact the output of coal in 1917 shows an increase of 52 per cent over that of 1913. The production of these minerals during the last two years is shown by the following statements: Coal, 2,125,478 metric tons in 1916 and 3,174,998 tons in 1917; iron ore, 383,251 tons in 1916 and 427,690 tons in 1917; and bauxite, 23,412 tons in 1916 and 38,115 tons in 1917.

The coal mines are situated in the Department of the Gard, which is the most important metallurgical center in southern France. The iron mines are located in the Pyrenees Mountains. The extraordinary development of the hydroelectric industry has led to a steadily increasing demand for bauxite.

Foreign coal, practically all of which originated in Great Britain, was received at this port only during the first part of the year. On account of transportation difficulties France was divided into coal regions, each one of which received its supply from a given source. The coal mines of the Department of the Gard were the sources of local supply.

NICE.

By Consul William Dulany Hunter.

The industrial and commercial situation in the Maritime Alps during the year 1917 was hampered by the scarcity of labor, the shortage and high prices of raw materials, poor transportation facilities, high freight rates, the embargo placed on exports of olive oil, and the difficulties experienced in importing goods. These factors, though not so keenly felt in this district as in industrial centers, caused

the prices of all commodities produced or sold here to be greatly increased during the last year.

Commercial activity in the Nice consular district is, to a great extent, dependent upon the number of visitors spending the winter months on the Riviera. Although no official data are obtainable, this number was considerably larger in 1917 than in 1916, and the commerce, especially the retail trade, was more prosperous than in any year since the outbreak of the war and counterbalanced to a certain extent the difficulties enumerated above.

American Imports and Exports Not Greatly Affected by War.

The imports of American goods, especially foodstuffs, into this district have been considerable. These commodities are received from Marseille, and therefore, the amount and the value can not be accurately given, but personal investigation in the retail stores showed a great increase in the amount of goods on sale. The increase would no doubt have been still larger if the difficulties of transportation by sea as well as by rail had not hampered importation and made the arrival of the goods uncertain.

Exports to the United States from this district in 1917 were valued at $1,445,442, an increase of $132,585 over 1916 when the value was $1,312,857. The 1917 total almost equaled the value of the exports in 1914—$1,480,525—during the first seven months of which France was at peace; and it is during these months that the shipments of essential oils and floral essences (the chief articles of export from this district) are usually largest.

The following table shows the principal articles exported from the Nice consular district to the United States during 1916 and 1917:

Articles.	1916		1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bottle caps decorated....pounds..	.....	.....	439	$420
Confectionery....do....	3,527	$1,057	2,964	1,808
Fruits, preserved....do....	8,130	811	2,906	666
Glassware.....	.....	10,495	.....	8,721
Linen, manufactures of.....	.....	5,133	.....	526
Oils, essential:				
Almond (bitter)....pounds..	1,481	10,773	412	3,412
Bergamot....do....	.....	.....	2,475	11,839
Cassia....do....	55	390	18	1,005
Jasmine....do....	105	4,432	510	27,335
Lavender....do....	61,682	121,579	67,772	155,579
Lemon....do....	.....	.....	1,594	15,744
Neroli or orange flower....do....	461	12,509	1,441	33,539
Peach kernel....do....	14,038	10,165	235	191
Rosemary....do....	13,863	6,696	10,141	4,027
Rose....do....	240	13,123	647	71,200
Thyme....do....	7,744	6,968	2,466	1,827
Other....do....	19,714	93,256	21,286	128,786
Oils, vegetable:				
Almond....do....	13,972	4,422	9,379	7,727
Olive....gallons..	448,837	560,547	245,282	404,030
Perfumery, toilet preparatioons, etc.:				
Aromatic mixtures....pounds..	22,151	68,590	25,741	60,787
Floral essences....do....	7,285	199,959	6,287	287,183
Floral waters....gallons..	37,753	13,271	21,741	10,905
Perfumery....pounds..	.....	.....	857	2,886
Silk, manufactures of.....	.....	1,581	.....	360
Works of art.....	.....	167	.....	11,662
Packing charges.....	.....	163,708	.....	191,837
All other articles.....	.....	3,225	.....	1,539
Total.....	.....	1,312,857	.....	1,445,542

Perfume, Principal Product and Article of Export.

Floral essences, floral concretes, and other raw articles of perfumery, manufactured at Grasse, are the chief industrial productions of the Nice consular district. Exports of these items to the United States alone amounted to $1,290,650 in 1912 and to $1,578,229 in 1913, the last two years before the war, and the 1917 exports were valued at $1,024,482. The exports were exceptionally high in 1913, the average for the last five years before the war being about $1,137,000 annually. The exports to America, therefore, for 1917 nearly reached the average of the pre-war exports.

Since the year 1913 two of the largest perfume factories of this district have combined and moved their commercial office to Paris, in consequence of which the exports to the United States of this firm do not figure in the exports of perfumery from the Nice district after 1913.

Inquiries made at nearly all the larger perfume factories at Grasse showed that, although the scarcity of labor was less keenly felt in that industry than in others (for the proportion of men laborers is at all times comparatively small), the work was carried on under the most trying circumstances. Alcohol and lard were high and difficult to procure; the prices of flowers increased (for instance, orange blossoms selling at 1.50 francs (29 cents) and roses selling at 2.50 francs (48 cents) a kilo in 1916 brought 2 and 3.50 francs (39 and 68 cents), respectively, in 1917); and the difficulties of transportation, of procuring export licenses and of securing experienced clerical assistance were keenly felt.

Despite these circumstances the perfume manufacturers prospered financially during 1917. This was due to the fact that the synthetical perfumery produced in Germany, the attar of roses of Bulgarian origin, and the products of the flower distilleries in Asia Minor are no more obtainable on the world market. The manufacture of the essential oil of cloves called "eugenol," which is used in the construction of aeroplanes and chemical preparations for war purposes, was another factor which helped maintain the perfume industry of this district in a comparatively prosperous condition.

The Olive-Oil Industry.

The spring olive crop was abundant and the oil produced of an exceptionally good quality. The prices of olive oil were the highest ever known, but the refiners and merchants say that their business was financially unprofitable, owing to the embargo, which prohibited the usual imports of oil from Italy, Spain, Tunis, and Algeria. Before the war, this imported oil was refined and blended with the oil produced in the Nice region and then reexported or sold to French customers. The embargo also made it impossible to replenish the stocks of oil usually kept on hand by the leading merchants, which had been greatly depleted on account of the high prices of edible fats, the shortage of cottonseed and other vegetable oils, and the retention of the output of their orchards for their own personal needs by the minor producers. The prices asked by the growers were high, and after adding the prices of packing—especially of glass and tin containers—the cost of transportation, insurance charges, and incidental expenses to the cost of production, the margin of profit was small.

The olive-oil trade was handicapped by Government control, which gave the Government the right to inspect the stock on hand, to commandeer the whole or part of any stock, and to take other useful and necessary measures to prevent speculation in this commodity. Although licensed imports from Spain were allowed, the cost of refining and purifying, the insurance charges, the loss by exchange, and the cost of transportation were factors which further increased the difficulties of the trade.

Agricultural Products Bring High Prices—Cut Flowers.

The Department of the Maritime Alps is not suitable for farming or for cattle raising, but because of its southern location and climatic conditions, part of the land is used for truck gardening and flower growing, and part for the cultivation of olive orchards. The need of farm hands has increased the price of labor to such an extent that men are receiving from 12 to 15 francs ($2.32 to $2.90) and women from 7 to 10 francs ($1.35 to $1.93) per day; but as vegetables, fruits, and all products of the soil demand very high prices on account of the scarcity of meat and fish, profits have been larger than before the war.

In pre-war years exports of cut flowers, especially during the winter months, was one of the sources of prosperity in this consular district. Two special trains daily transported, in postal parcels of 5 and 10 kilos, cut flowers in willow baskets to Paris, London, and the large cities of central Europe and Russia. Although no official statistics are available, the figures given for the year 1914 by the chamber of commerce of this city estimated the number of baskets sent at 2,200,000 and the total value of the floral production for the Riviera at almost $12,000,000. In this sum were included the flowers produced for the perfumery industry. In the year 1917, the exports of flowers to the Central Powers, Russia, and Great Britain ceased, and the number of postal parcels sent to Paris fell off, largely because of lack of adequate communication between Nice and the capital. Although the demand of the perfume industry for flowers was large and the price was high, the lack of men laborers for the hoeing made the production unremunerative, and many of the flower cultivators used their land for truck gardening. The shortage of farm hands has been, to a certain extent, relieved by the action of French military authorities in granting leave of absence to agricultural laborers, mobilized in the auxiliary service, during the periods of the planting and the harvesting of the field crops.

Other Industries of Nice.

The other industries in the Nice district before the war were the manufactures of lime and cement, with a total output of 160,000 metric tons; mechanical pianos, with a production valued at $231,600; macaroni factories, with a production of 12,000 tons estimated at $1,447,500; one calcium-carbide plant, with an output of 3,000 tons; candied-fruit factories, with a production of 660,000 kilos, valued at $636,900; pottery plants manufacturing 11,000,000 pieces, valued at $675,500; and two small foundries; the above figures are for the year 1911, which are the last published official statistics. These smaller industries have been affected differently by the war. The lime and cement and the calcium-carbide plants and the foundries have

been militarized. Their workmen are classified in the auxiliary military corps, and the total output is used for war purposes. The mechanical-piano factories likewise have been militarized, and are now producing appliances to be used for the national defense. The macaroni factories, which during the first six months of 1917 were able to supply to a certain extent the local demand, were obliged, because of the lack of raw materials, to discontinue production for the civil population. Candied fruit was manufactured during the whole of 1917, although it is said that the output, on account of the shortage of sugar, was smaller than in the years before the war. A decree published before the end of the year prohibited the production of this commodity, allowing three months for the manufacturers to dispose of their stock.

Economical and Financial Situation Unusual.

The following statements in connection with the economical and financial conditions in this district may seem contradictory; for example, villas surrounded by parks were in demand and commanded higher prices than before the war, while small and cheap houses and tenement buildings were difficult to sell, and brought prices considerably lower than those paid before the war. According to a moratorium, a law passed at the outbreak of the war, families of persons serving at the front are not obliged to pay their rent until such time as their income will allow such payment; the consequence is that persons owning houses occupied by these classes may be in comparatively straitened circumstances. One reason why valuable property is in demand is that many persons have gained considerable wealth during the war and prefer to invest part of their gains in real estate. Expensive jewels, furniture, and other luxuries found a ready market, but the demand for commodities used by the poor was very limited, owing to the high prices.

The working classes and small storekeepers, especially those selling foodstuffs, were in comparatively better circumstances than before the war. Wages had increased; wives of men in active service received indemnities from the Government for themselves and children; and post allowances and war indemnities granted to Government employees and clerical working forces of business houses enabled them to live on the same scale as formerly. On the other hand, those deriving their incomes from annuities, small pensions, or other fixed sources felt the hardship and financial strain of the enormous advance in the cost of living. The local banks and agencies of the Parisian banks did well. Money was easily obtained, but the interest asked was somewhat higher than before the war.

Shipping Tonnage Decreases—Transportation Difficulties.

The harbor of Nice has been less frequented than in former years, although it has a wharfage of 1,312 feet with a water depth of nearly 23 feet and 2,297 feet with a water depth of from 19 to 21 feet; electrical cranes for loading and unloading; and many facilities for shipping. The official figures for 1917, for both the entry and clearance of all ships were only 378,938 tons, and for 1913 the tonnage amounted to 1,144,924. One of the reasons given for this large decrease is that many of the regular lines touching at Nice have ceased to run since the war. At the end of 1917 and the beginning of 1918 a considerable number of sailing ships of only a few hundred tons,

transporting wine and foodstuffs between the small ports of the district and small Italian ports, were entered and cleared from Nice.

The geographical situation of Nice, halfway between the large ports of Marseille and Genoa and practically cut off from the northern parts of Italy and France by the Maritime Alps, has prevented the construction of railways connecting this city with the north. The only line passing Nice is the direct line between Marseille and Genoa, traffic on which was congested even before the war. (A small-gauge railway and electric tramways run into the mountain valleys, but they are only of local importance.) Military trains at times practically cut off the possibility of receiving goods from the center of France and Italy, and thus produced a shortage of many necessities. Even the passenger service was restricted to only one direct train and two or three local trains a day to the capital.

LA ROCHELLE.

By Consul William W. Brunswick.

The consular district of La Rochelle comprises the Departments of Charente, Charente-Inferieure, and the Deux-Sevres. The Department of Charente is named from the River Charente, a deep and narrow body of water. The two most important cities in this Department are Angouleme and Cognac.

Angouleme has a large paper factory which produces in peace times more than 15,000 metric tons of cigarette paper per annum. This production has been greatly reduced owing to lack of labor and materials. Another industry is that of the manufacture of wire cloth and paper-machine wire. During 1917 a fairer percentage of this latter product was exported than in the previous year, but the production of wire cloth has fallen off about 50 per cent owing to import restrictions on raw material, difficulties of transportation, and lack of labor.

The cognac industry of the city of Cognac remains, as regards production, the same as last year. Lack of labor, materials, and the loss of the American and Canadian markets, ascribed to the total abstinence movements in those countries, together with restrictions of other importing countries, have had a depressing effect upon this industry. No data is obtainable showing the quantity produced.

Department of the Charente-Inferieure.

The two most important ports in the Department of Charente-Inferieure are La Pallice (La Rochelle) and Rochefort. La Pallice, the larger of the two has become one of the most important ports on the Atlantic side of France since the war, because of its good harbor, excellent roadstead, and facilities for handling large cargoes. In 1890 improvements in the port of La Pallice were begun and completed in 1891 at a cost of approximately $4,500,000. Since the war the harbor facilities have been greatly augmented.

A five-story warehouse has just been completed at La Pallice with a capacity of 4,000 tons of frozen meat, and a similar building of the same capacity is to be erected. An engine house situated between the two buildings will contain three engines, which will be able to produce 1½ tons of ice per hour. The average charges for the storage of meat per month will be $5.50 per ton.

An English concern, the Birmingham Wagon Co., is breaking ground at La Pallice for the construction of railway shops to repair

freight cars, etc. This is a private enterprise and will be permanently located in this port.

The Department of the Deux-Sevres.

The Department of the Deux-Sevres is named after two principal waterways, both named the Sevre. The Sevre Niortaise flows through the city of Niort, the capital of the Department, and empties into the Atlantic Ocean, the Sevre Nantaise flows northward and unites with the Loire at Nantes.

Niort is the center of the glove and glove-leather industry for this district. The total production of crust chamois in the Niort region amounted to 51,000 dozen skins in 1916 and about 60,000 dozen in 1917, an increase of 9,000 dozen. A larger increase would have been noted if fresh skins could have been obtained. Difficulties of transportation, prohibition of imports into France of sheepskins from foreign countries, and lack of labor prevented manufacturers from maintaining their normal production. While the demands for glove leather during the year 1917 were greater than the supply, it must be noted that a large amount of glove leather was diverted from the glove factories for use in orthopedic manufactures, such as artificial limbs, trusses, etc., for wounded soldiers. The crust-chamois manufacturers naturally felt that the needs of the French market had to be served first.

Distillation is also an important industry in the Department of Deux-Sevres. About 95 per cent of the products of the distilleries here are actually utilized by the French War Service. Among the by-products of these distilleries are butylic fusel oil and butylic alcohol. Distillers believe that at the end of hostilities a large quantity of these by-products will be available for exportation to the United States, an important consumer of solvents in its industries.

Import Trade of the District.

Most of the trade of the district is carried on through the port of La Pallice (La Rochelle). The quantity of the principal items of import passing through this port during the years 1916 and 1917 is given below:

Articles.	1916	1917	Articles.	1916	1917
	Metric tons.	*Metric tons.*		*Metric tons.*	*Metric tons.*
Arms and ammunition	266	443	Oils, heavy	4,277	300
Cars, railway and other	35,728	67,335	Oleaginous seeds, etc	.....	567
Cellulose	2,006	1,502	Paper	241	1,102
Chemical products	.....	106,332	Petroleum	19,831	31,361
Coal	315,360	562,079	Phosphate, natural	.....	21,449
Coffee	.....	171	Pyrites	.....	8,138
Copper and manufactures of	9,127	39,471	Rice	.....	2,102
Corn	18,939	5,076	Rosin, mineral	.....	2,075
Cotton and manufactures of	6,072	7,357	Salt, refined	8,890	822
Fibers, vegetable	.....	1,291	Spirits, all kinds	[b] 377,453	[b] 25,265
Fish, fresh, salted, and dried	.....	3,069	Tapioca	.....	6,150
Flour, wheat	17,421	11,226	Tar, mineral	6,535	3,963
Hemp, manila	.....	1,836	Tobacco, leaf	631	4,452
Hides, fresh	.....	1,163	Varnish	261	451
Horses	[a] 26,575	[a] 19,264	Wheat	24,111	15,072
Iron and steel:			Wine	.....	[b] 7,106
Unmanufactured	103,326	24,563	Wood:		
Manufactures of	94,596	223,739	Fire	240	4,947
Meats	698	5,019	Lumber, sawed	9,145	10,184
Milk	2,868	1,978	Manufactures of	.....	1,041
Mules	[a] 3,036	[a] 2,163	Wool	.....	1,555
Oats	85,086	50,122	Zinc	1,270	3,611

[a] Number. [b] Gallons.

Exports to the United States.

The quantity and value of the declared exports to the United States during 1916 and 1917, as invoiced at this consulate, were as follows:

Articles.	1916		1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value
Brandy.....proof gallons..	398,171	$1,355,367	473,714	$1,460,124
Casein.....pounds..	164,041	14,155	.....	.....
Chamois, crust.....dozens..	6,933	31,595	8,845	38,659
Paper-machine wire.....pounds..	832	1,784	2,715	7,450
Wire cloth.....do....	3,231	8,633	2,450	7,332
Total.....	.....	1,411,534	.....	1,513,565

ROUEN.

By Consul Albro L. Burnell.

The imports of foreign merchandise into the maritime port of Rouen during the year 1917, not including those brought by British and French Army transports, amounted to 7,698,855 metric tons (1 metric ton=2,204.6 pounds), 203,168 metric tons less than in 1916.

The exports in 1917 were only 77,516 metric tons, or less than 1 per cent of the total tonnage of 7,776,371 metric tons of foreign trade and a decrease of 6,694 metric tons, compared with those of 1916.

During 1917 there were 4,512 entries of foreign vessels with a tonnage of 2,985,843 at the port of Rouen, of which 33 were American vessels of 78,836 tons. There were also 2,960 arrivals of French vessels of all classes of 734,460 tons, making a total (not including vessels, except American, entering and clearing en route at the port of Le Havre) of 7,472 entries of an aggregate tonnage of 3,720,303. British Army and hospital ships are not included in these returns. There were 795 fewer arrivals and 310,656 less tons of shipping in 1917 than in 1916.

Coal Trade—The Cotton Industry.

The total imports of coal into Rouen in 1917, including briquettes, charcoal, and coke, were 6,624,784 metric tons; 389,724 metric tons more than in 1916. The arrivals of French coal amounted to only 24,600 metric tons; 10,720 metric tons less than in 1916.

In general all essential industries in the Rouen district were confronted during the year with such difficulties as shortage and high cost of labor, coal, raw materials, and transportation, costly and reduced production, narrow margins of profit, Government requisitions, and shortage of goods for the civilian trade.

Prices for raw cotton increased generally throughout the year, except the third quarter; and stocks of spun cotton were low. The output of cotton textiles was largely absorbed by the Government to satisfy military requirements. Civilian customers made offers for large quantities of goods, but the weavers did not generally care to accept them for long-time deliveries, as they were unable to figure with any great degree of accuracy the probable cost of production. Selling prices did not advance proportionately with the increased cost of materials.

Although all the cotton-printing plants in the district operated throughout the year, their output was cut down by the greatly increased cost of production, which required higher prices than customers were willing to pay. The printing of goods for furniture coverings, which had been practically abandoned during 1915 and 1916, was resumed by several plants.

Other Industries of the District.

The output of the chemical industry was considerably decreased because of the scarcity of raw materials and labor. The production of concentrated sulphuric acid, which in normal times is about 900 metric tons per month, showed in 1917 a monthly average of 5,200 metric tons. Superphosphates were not produced in sufficient quantity to meet local agricultural needs, because of the lack of sulphuric acid and of tonnage for the transportation of phosphates from Africa. The manufacture of acetate of cellulose and of sulphate of ammonia were started here during the year.

The characteristic features of the tanning industry for the year were the appropriation of its output by the Government, the distribution of raw hides and tanning extracts under governmental direction, and the manufacture of the "national shoe."

Prices for wines rose continuously throughout the year, but sales kept normal. The consumption of apéritifs increased. Stocks of industrial alcohol were exhausted, and to meet urgent demands small lots of wine alcohol were utilized for the manufacture of ordinary brandy.

By governmental decree wages of workers in machine shops and similar occupations were established, which effected increases in wages of normal times from 50 to 115 per cent.

Elbeuf is the center of the woolen-textile industry of this district. Military goods such as cloths and flannels were chiefly produced in 1917. In June the monthly production of cloth reached 426,508 yards and of flannel 109,361 yards in spite of many difficulties. A wool-combing plant, two spinning mills for handling combed wool, and a mill for spinning mixed thread for hosiery were established during the year.

Imports of Principal Articles.

The leading articles of import into Rouen in 1917 were coal, petroleum products, such as gasoline, naphtha, kerosene, and lubricating oils, cast iron, wood pulp, wines, and coal-tar products. Coal was the only article imported in any notably increased quantity over that brought in during 1916, while the imports of wood pulp, grain, pyrites, wines, manufactures of iron and steel, phosphates, and paper were considerably less than for the previous year.

Imports into Rouen from the United States during 1917 amounted to 239,614 metric tons, 123,992 metric tons less than in 1916. Petroleum products, aggregating 225,811 metric tons and consisting of naphtha, gasoline, kerosene, lubricating oil, and crude petroleum, were the principal items.

The quantity of the principal articles of import during 1916 and 1917 were:

Articles.	1916	1917	Articles.	1916	1917
	Metric tons.	*Metric tons.*		*Metric tons.*	*Metric tons.*
Animal products	2,027	1,963	Metals—Continued.		
Bitumen and asphalt	1,561	2,171	Steel, tool	6,785	2,432
Chemicals:			Iron and steel, manufactures of—		
Ammonia salts, crude	.....	19,074	Sheets	29,554	10,745
Coal-tar products	49,268	58,860	Other	43,274	6,191
Other	5,644	5,400	Other metals	1,947	2,140
Clays or earths	1,611	1,014	Oils, vegetable	976	2,268
Coal, coke, and charcoal	6,235,060	6,624,784	Paper	71,697	18,802
Cocoa beans	.....	1,361	Paraffin	2,422	3,226
Cotton, and manufactures of:			Petroleum:		
Cloth	3,010	1,096	Heavy oils	29,087	33,861
Raw	1,414	303	Refined and essences of	249,163	223,706
Fibers, textile	3,523	1,527	Other	.....	6,947
Flour, wheat	7,673	5,289	Phosphates, natural	70,281	15,946
Fruits	321	1,115	Pyrites	155,103	30,220
Grain:			Rubber, india, crude	.....	1,379
Corn	15,254	4,946	Spirits: Alcohol	543	1,404
Wheat	36,872	9,062	Sulphur, crude	.....	5,813
Other	87,411	293	Tar, mineral	6,222	24,679
Grape pulp and musts	229	566	Wines	203,371	130,926
Kaolin	12,274	6,852	Wood, and manufactures of:		
Machines, machinery, and parts	5,319	4,551	Planks and boards	90,991	37,837
Metal goods	.....	8,103	Pulp	293,806	143,672
Metals:			All other articles	20,544	28,704
Iron, cast	142,668	197,800	Total	7,902,023	7,698,855
Iron and steel scrap	15,11[illegible]	11,82[illegible]			

Exports from Rouen.

The exports from Rouen in 1917 were 77,516 metric tons, 6,694 metric tons less than in 1916. It is notable that the direct exports from this port are insignificant, compared with the imports of 7,698,855 metric tons, and that during the year 6,720 vessels of a tonnage of 3,674,210 left port in ballast. Of these vessels, 4,359, aggregating 3,044,728 tons, were of other than French nationality.

The following table shows the quantity of the principal exports from Rouen during 1916 and 1917:

Articles.	1916	1917	Articles.	1916	1917
	Metric. tons.	*Metric. tons.*		*Metric. tons.*	*Metric. tons.*
Belting	.....	2,533	Mineral water	657	1,591
Casks, empty	5,605	8,054	Ocher	105	744
Chemicals	822	758	Oilseed cake	6,444	2,339
Clays or earths	2,136	2,303	Rags	1,712	3,159
Cotton manufactures:			Sand for glass making	25,785	33,204
Waste, thread	.....	579	Wines	482	573
Other	43	809	All other articles	18,044	9,057
Jute bags	.....	516			
Iron:			Total	84,210	77,516
Alloys and scrap	10,825	3,687			
Ore	11,550	7,610			

Declared Exports to the United States.

Declared exports to the United States, as shown by invoices certified at the Rouen consulate in 1917, decreased $178,256 in value, owing largely to a heavy falling off of shipments of crude paper stock, particularly of rags, a product which the French Government is utilizing for the manufacture of powder. The quality and value of the

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declared exports from the Rouen district to the United States during 1917 and a comparison with 1916, follows:

Articles.	1916		1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Card clothing.....square yards..	824	$700	2,631	$2,349
Cloth:				
Cotton.....do....	102,826	35,062	39,968	17,445
Woolen or chiefly of wool.....pounds..	1,764	3,007	657	1,035
Combs, horn.....dozen..	459	554	1,377	1,928
Glue stock.....pounds..	278,772	13,161	5,183	6,251
Musical instruments (principally clarinets) and parts.....number..	3,034	22,198	3,875	37,954
Paper stock, crude.....pounds..	9,295,202	333,292	5,436,269	178,703
Suspenders, cotton.....dozen..	3,898	9,014	2,160	5,032
All other articles.....	.....	12,503	.....	538
Total.....	.....	429,491	.....	251,235

There were no invoices certified for shipment from the Dieppe agency to the United States or its possessions during 1917.

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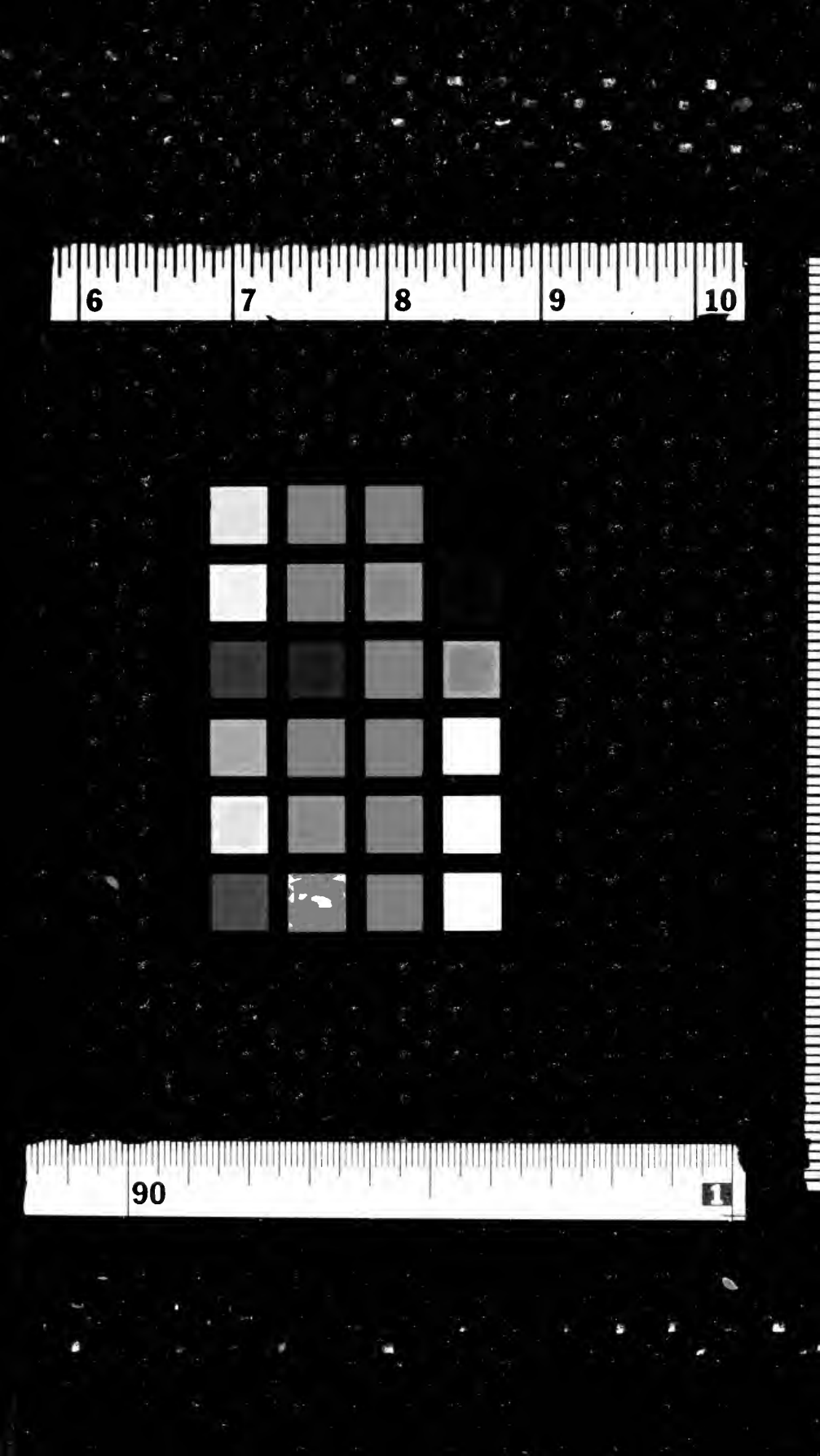
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